

AGRICULTURAL WATER OPTIMIZATION TASK FORCE**AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses the Agricultural Water Optimization Task Force.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ expands the membership of the task force;
- ▶ clarifies quorum requirements;
- ▶ addresses the task force recommending legislation as part of its annual report; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

73-10g-202, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 143

73-10g-203, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 143

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **73-10g-202** is amended to read:

73-10g-202. Agricultural Water Optimization Task Force.

(1) There is created the Agricultural Water Optimization Task Force, consisting of:

(a) the following voting members:

- (i) one [person] individual representing the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- (ii) one [person] individual representing the board or division;
- (iii) one [person] individual representing the Division of Water Rights;

- (iv) one ~~[person]~~ individual representing the Division of Water Quality;
- (v) one ~~[person]~~ individual representing the interests of the agriculture industry;
- (vi) one ~~[person]~~ individual representing environmental interests; ~~[and]~~
- (vii) one ~~[person]~~ individual representing water conservancy districts; ~~[and]~~
- (viii) three individuals whose primary source of income comes from the development of agricultural commodities; and

(b) one nonvoting member from the higher education community with a background in research.

(2) (a) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food shall appoint the members described in Subsections (1)(a)(i), (v), ~~[and]~~ (vii), and (viii).

(b) The executive director of the Department of Natural Resources shall appoint the members described in Subsections (1)(a)(ii), (iii), and (vi).

(c) The governor shall appoint the members described in Subsections (1)(a)(iv) and (1)(b).

(3) The division shall provide administrative support to the task force.

(4) The task force shall select a chair from among its membership.

(5) Six voting members present constitutes a quorum of the task force. Action by a majority of voting members when a quorum is present is an action of the task force.

~~[(5)] (6) Service on the task force is voluntary and [members may not be compensated for their service on the task force but may receive per diem and travel expenses as allowed in Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107, and relevant Division of Finance rules.] a member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:~~

(a) Section 63A-3-106;

(b) Section 63A-3-107; and

(c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

Section 2. Section **73-10g-203** is amended to read:

73-10g-203. Duties of the task force.

(1) The task force created in Section 73-10g-202 shall:

(a) identify critical issues facing the state's long-term water supply, particularly in

regard to how the state should optimize agricultural water supply and use in light of future population growth, and the future water needs of Utah agriculture;

(b) identify current obstacles to, and constraints upon, quantification of agricultural water use, and recommend means, methods, technologies, or other opportunities to improve the quantification of agricultural water use on a basin level; and

(c) identify means, methods, systems, or technologies with the potential to maintain or increase agricultural production while reducing the agriculture industry's water diversion and consumption.

(2) The task force shall issue requests for proposals and award grants to study the issues identified in Subsection (1), prioritizing proposals and grants as necessary.

(3) In identifying critical issues as described in Subsection (1), and prioritizing requests for proposals and grants as described in Subsection (2), the task force shall:

(a) identify, develop, and apply sound science and relevant research on optimizing agricultural water use;

(b) measure gains at the basin level;

(c) take into account the variety of agricultural products, opportunities to improve water use practices, and local needs;

(d) address and account for farm economics at the enterprise and community level;

(e) work within existing agricultural markets or encourage market behavior that financially rewards improved practices;

(f) recognize established water rights;

(g) create meaningful benefits for farmers to optimize water use and protect water quality;

(h) monitor funded research projects and evaluate the efficacy of completed research; and

(i) disseminate research findings.

(4) The task force shall report on ~~[its]~~ the task force's progress under this section by November 30, of each year, to:

(a) the Legislative Water Development Commission;

(b) the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and

(c) the ~~[Executive]~~ Utah Water Task Force within the Department of Natural

94 Resources.

95 (5) As part of the report required by Subsection (4), and based on the information
96 acquired under Subsections (1) through (3), the task force shall recommend legislation, if any,
97 that addresses the issues listed in Subsection (3).